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PRESS RELEASE

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USAID Celebrates Public Private Partnerships with Companies in Macedonia

USAID Macedonia is honoring three private-sector partners - Seavus, Oracle Education Foundation and Microsoft Macedonia - for their exceptional partnership with USAID to improve education in Macedonia. A ceremony was held at Jan Amos Komenski Primary School to highlight the important role of these companies in improving the quality of education in Macedonia.

"Together, we have demonstrated cost-efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the changes that lead to our goal of better education for a better future in Macedonia," said USAID Mission Director Robert Wuertz.

The USAID Primary Education Project worked in partnership with Microsoft to encourage innovative educators in Macedonia, with Oracle Education Foundation to support on-line communities of practice for teachers, and with Seavus to support youth camps that teach employability skills such as communications, leadership and entrepreneurship. USAID worldwide is celebrating Public-Private Partnerships Week from October 17-21, 2011, to highlight the role of private-sector engagement in development.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The USAID Primary Education Project (PEP), works with all public primary schools, selected gymnasiums and all electro technical secondary schools in Macedonia. PEP seeks to improve the quality of instruction and increase the employment skills of students. The overall goal of the USAID Education Program is to strengthen education in Macedonia and to support decentralization efforts, as Macedonia seeks entrance to the European Union.

The American people, through USAID, have invested over \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.